

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims of this application so as to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A reading apparatus comprising:
 - a reading portion for reading an image of data entered in a form where a predetermined layout is printed;
 - a storage portion in which mask data of the predetermined layout to be superimposed on a read out image is pre-stored; and
 - a control portion for controlling an entirety of the apparatus, wherein the control portion superimposes the mask data on the image, and deletes a part of image covered with the mask data to thereby extract the data entered in the form from the image; , and
 - wherein the control portion reads a layout code previously printed on the form by the reading portion, and reads mask data of the layout corresponding to the layout code from the storage portion.
2. Canceled, without prejudice.
3. Canceled, without prejudice.
4. (Currently Amended) The reading apparatus of claim 21, wherein the control portion reads a detection mark previously printed on the form by the reading portion, and corrects position and inclination of the image.

5. Canceled, without prejudice.

6. (Currently Amended) The reading apparatus of claim 21, wherein the control portion reads the detection mark previously printed on the form by the reading portion and adjusts the size of the image and the size of the mask data read from the storage portion to each other.

7. Canceled, without prejudice.

8. (Previously Presented) The reading apparatus of claim 4, wherein the control portion reads the detection mark previously printed on the form by the reading portion and adjusts the size of the image and the size of the mask data read from the storage portion to each other.

9. Canceled, without prejudice.

10. (Currently Amended) The reading apparatus of claim 21, wherein the control portion reads a print magnification previously printed on the form by the reading portion, and reads from the storage portion the mask data of a size corresponding to the print magnification.

11. Canceled, without prejudice.

12. (Original) The reading apparatus of claim 4, wherein the control portion reads a print magnification previously printed on the form by the reading portion, and reads from the storage portion the mask data of a size corresponding to the print magnification.
13. Canceled, without prejudice.
14. (Currently Amended) The reading apparatus of claim ~~2~~1, wherein in the storage portion, mask data of thicker entry box lines than the entry box lines of the layout printed on the form is stored.
15. Canceled, without prejudice.
16. (Original) The reading apparatus of claim 4, wherein in the storage portion, mask data of thicker entry box lines than the entry box lines of the layout printed on the form is stored.
17. (Original) The reading apparatus of claim 4, wherein the mask data is data of print areas of the predetermined layout, layout code and detection marks.
18. (Original) The reading apparatus of claim 16, wherein the mask data is data of print areas of the predetermined layout, layout code and detection marks.

19. (Currently Amended) A data processing system comprising:

~~reading means for reading an image of data entered in a
form where a predetermined layout is printed
superimposing pre-stored mask data of the predetermined
layout on the read image and deleting the predetermined
layout from the image by deleting the part covered with
the mask data, thereby extracting the entered data;
the reading apparatus according to claim 1;~~

layout management means for managing layout data of the
layout used for the form; and

printing means for superimposing the entered data transmitted
from the reading ~~means apparatus~~ and the layout data
transmitted from the layout management means, and
printing out the resultant image.

20. (Original) The data processing system of claim 19, wherein the layout management
means registers a layout where parts for data entry are enlarged and an original
layout where the parts are not enlarged so as to be associated with each other.